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Parkers annual greenkeepers tournament

Cuddington Golf Club was once more the venue of Parkers, of Worcester Park's Annual Greenkeepers Tournament and again the event enjoyed superb weather.

The course was in excellent shape and there was some very keen competition between the representatives of over sixty clubs before Andy Clarke, of Knole Park, was declared the winner with a stableford score of 40 points.

At the prizegiving he was presented with Parkers Rose Bowl by Mrs Margaret Parker, wife of Parkers Managing Director, Jim Parker. Mike Smith of Thorpe Hall was runner-up.



Go anywhere 4wd armed from Marshall

A two cylinder, diesel powered truck, selling at £3,499, has been launched by Marshall Tractors.

Similar to the popular continental concept of basic low-cost multi-role carriers, the Ranger could prove a strong British-made attraction as a golf course pick-up.

It is cheap to buy and run and remarkably versatile, with a drop sided, tipping flatbed capable of taking a 900kg payload.

It has a cab to provide protection in bad weather, and it is inherently safe on rough terrain.

The Marshall Ranger's steel frame chassis is articulated in the middle, allowing the payload area approx 15cms of independent oscillation.

This improved safety on very rough surfaces, enabling all four wheels to maintain contact with the ground.

The 4 wheel-drive has taken two years to develop with its flat-design automatic transmission, providing eight forward and two reverse gears.

The Ranger with a top speed of 20mph has disc brakes at the front, drum brakes at the rear. The live rear axle is unsprung, but the two seater cab has a coil spring and telescopic damper system.

The deluxe model of the Ranger has a 25hp engine, in-cab electronic monitor, hydraulic tipping, CB radio kit and electric winch, all for £3,999.



Elanco starts new business unit

The Plant Science Division of Elanco Products Limited has announced the appointment of Mr. Steven Frost to the new position of Business Manager, Professional and Environmental Speciality Products.

Previously Steve was manager of New Product Planning and Licensing, Europe, before which he was manager of Agricultural Science and Product Registration for Europe based at the Lilly Research Centre in Windlesham, Surrey.

In his new position Steve will be responsible for developing a new business unit which will concentrate on the UK opportunities for Elanco's extensive range of speciality products in non-agricultural markets. This follows the company's success in these business sectors in the US where sales approaching \$50million per annum are being achieved from the wide range of products in turf, ornamentals, aquatic and horticultural markets. Commenting on his new position Steve Frost said: "Elanco already has several products which are currently being sold into non-agricultural markets in Europe. The new business unit will develop and expand these markets in the UK and enter new markets with the launch of unique new products."

British dairy farmer turns to golf

A £15 million, 180-acre golf and leisure complex to rival the best in Europe is being constructed at Portal, Tarporley, in the heart of the Cheshire plain by entrepreneur farmer and developer John Lilley.

Included in the project will be a new 150-bedroomed luxury hotel, set amidst some of the most beautiful gardens in the country and complete with three restaurants, a swimming pool, sauna, squash, tennis, snooker, jogging facilities and trout pool. The 18-hole championship course currently under construction by the Brian Pierson organisation has been designed by Donald Steel.

Although work on the course is expected to be completed this autumn, it is unlikely to be open for play until the summer of 1991. "Our aim is to allow the course to mature and really become established long before people play on it," says John Lilley. The entire playing area has been treated with round-up and is to be reseeded to a high specification. Fairways and tees will be sown with a mixture based on Hunters of Chester's Sports Supreme mixture and containing Agram, Wintergreen and Lustre chewings fescues, Baron smooth stalked meadow grass and Highland Brown Top. Roughs will be sown with Hunter's Sports Sovereign - Lustre/Wintergreen chewings fescues, Boreal creeping red fescue, Baron SSMG and Highland Browntop - while greens are to be turfed.

The course will be open to everyone on a pay-as-you-play basis and the new clubhouse will cater exclusively for golfers. A second course is already being planned and, when completed, it is likely that membership will be considered.

It is estimated that more than 50 per cent of Britain's dairy farmers are looking for alternative uses for their land and in John Lilley's case he believes his solution is ideal, through his newly installed embryo transplant unit and turning over land to leisure and sports facilities.

Iseki UK expands to Cambridgeshire

Iseki UK has opened the doors of Britain's first specialist compact tractor centre based in Cambridgeshire.

The move to the new three and half acre site at Bourn, adjacent to the A45 Cambridge - Bedford road, comes just two and a half years after the companies formation in Great Britain and mirrors Iseki's growth in the market place to offer some of the best facilities in the business. Speaking at the opening of these spacious new premises, Iseki's managing director John Hawkins said, "since our formation we have consistently wanted to increase the facilities offered to our dealers and professional turf users. The move to Bourn provides us with more room for our increasing parts and service area and for training, whilst outside we hope to establish the best in demonstration areas too."

The new Iseki premises comprise some 20,000 sq.ft under cover, a new modern office and administration block, an assembly hall and containerised storage for products recently arrived from Iseki's parent company in Japan.

Iseki's approach to the compact tractor and professional market is to supply a total package for the end user. The range of products distributed now includes not only the Iseki range of tractors, but also the Greencare range of Coremasters, Turfblazer out front mowers and the Mura-tori, Sitrex and associated brands of loaders/backhoes and attachments.

The opening of Britain's first compact tractor centre is an important milestone for Iseki UK. "We now have the facilities to match our growing share in the market."



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said Mr Hawkins, "We can offer the dealers and users we serve the opportunity to view, test drive and evaluate the products we sell as well as training and supporting them with a wide range of educational courses for the user, salesmen and fitters.

Johnsons launch Jupiter to replace imports of creeping red fescue

"The best new cultivar to have reached the sports and amenity grass sector for many years" - that is the description applied by Johnsons Seeds to Jupiter, an outstanding fine-leaved cultivar of the slender creeping red fescue group, which was introduced by the company towards the end of June. The first product of Johnsons' amenity grass breeding programme and launched after 15 years of assessment, commercial development and trials, Jupiter offers all the attributes which sports people and amenity turf managers look for in a cultivar, notably: Bright emerald green and distinctive strong winter colours; uniform and compact low growth for low maintenance and fewer heads; compactness - Jupiter has higher shoot numbers per unit than many other Chewings fescues, thus giving extra density and resistance to wear and weeds; tolerance to drought in summer and cold in winter; disease resistance, particularly to red thread and dollar spot, where it has proved to be more resistant than other leading cultivars, bred and produced in Britain.

Entered into trials by the Sports Turf Research Institute in 1984, Jupiter is currently the only cultivar to have been

awarded five 'A' ratings for compactness, freedom from red thread, freedom from dollar spot, greenness in summer and greenness in winter. The new cultivar received 'B' ratings for 5mm mowing and short growth.

Trials carried out by Johnsons between 1983 and 1987, in which Jupiter was compared with leading cultivars of slender creeping red fescue, plus the widely-used commercial stong creeping fescue Boreal, showed the new cultivar to be well in advance of other varieties.

Assessments were made covering colour, texture, density and disease-resistance on a 0-9 basis. Jupiter merged as the top cultivar with an overall score of 7.17.

Disease-resistance was rated on an A-D scale with only two varieties achieving a pair of 'A's for red thread and dollar spot, Jupiter being one of them.

Plant breeders rights were granted to Johnsons for the UK/EEC and North America in 1985 and it is now Johnsons' declared aim to build up seed production in the UK, avoiding the scarcities which are experienced with some contemporaries of Jupiter.

The company have pledged that, by increasing the number of growers and the acreage of Jupiter, supply will keep pace with demand and there will be enough seed available to satisfy current and future needs.

In fact, the acreage of Jupiter this year will exceed the total UK acreage of creeping red fescues in 1986, while in 1990 production will be triple that amount.

Johnsons are recommending that Jupiter should be a component of the major mix-

tures for fine turf and they are including it as a key cultivar in their mixtures for areas such as cricket squares, golf greens, tennis courts and bowling greens.

Such is the versatility of the cultivar, however, that mixtures are also being marketed for golf fairways, cricket outfield, shaded areas, embankments and general purpose applications.

The source material for Jupiter was selected from a natural turf area in the south of England. Parental clones have been retained to ensure that Jupiter will remain uniform and stable for commercial production.

Derek Whelbourn, director of Johnsons' wholesale division, commented: "There can be no doubt that Jupiter adds a new dimension to the options which are available to anybody with an interest in sports and amenity turf. It is a truly outstanding new cultivar - we have called it Jupiter because we believe it is out of this world - and we are very proud to have produced such a fine cultivar from our amenity grass breeding programme."

The current value of the UK amenities seed market is placed at between £15 million - £20 million with a demand for some 5000 tons a year. The domestic market is about 1/2 of this again, giving a total UK seed market of 7500 tons. Johnsons share of this is claimed to be 25 per cent and with the launch of Jupiter the company forecasts this share will rise rapidly as domestic production begins to replace import of creeping red fescue. Material grown on British farms is estimated to be 200 tons, about 10% of the total imports of this variety.

Hole Cups

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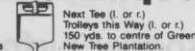
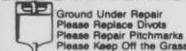


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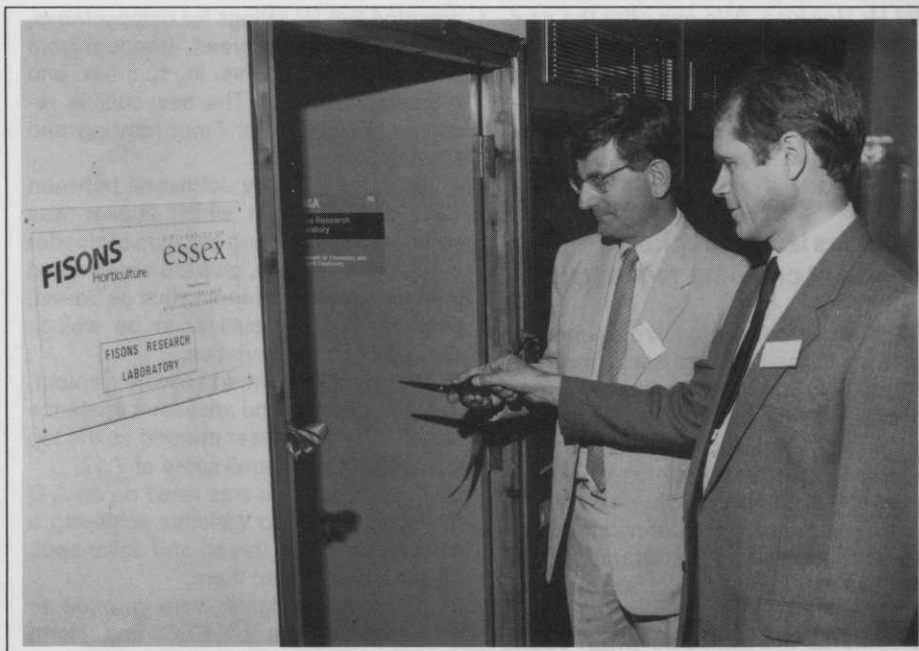
Fisons lecturer in pesticide chemistry

Fisons Horticulture Division has signed an agreement, valued at £90,000 over three years, with the University of Essex to establish the post of Lecturer in Pesticide Chemistry, together with supporting laboratory facilities.

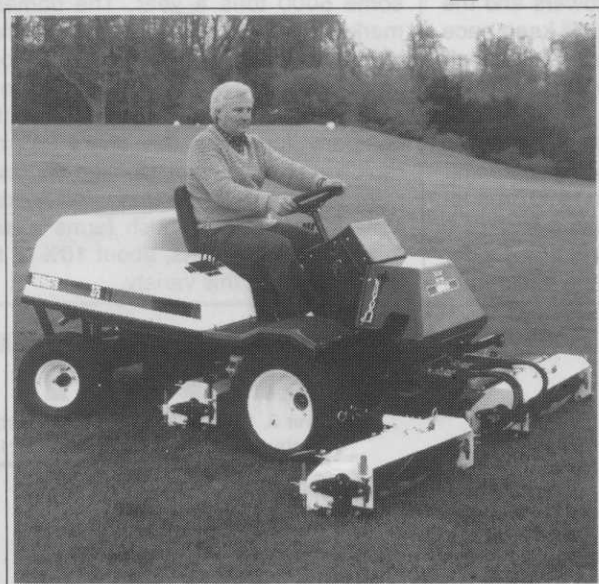
The Horticulture Division of Fisons plc sells the extensive Murphy range of pesticides on the UK home and garden market. In addition, Fisons Horticulture has a specialist pesticide range for the professional horticulture industry, including products such as the Fungicides Filex, Basilex and Turfclear.

Under the new agreement, the appointee will lecture within the University of Essex to established courses and carry out pesticide research to the benefit of both Fisons and the University.

Dr Roger Turner, research and development director of Fisons Horticulture, said, "We are delighted to be able to establish this lectureship and the extra laboratory facilities here at the University of Essex.



Dr Roger Turner (right), Fisons Research and Development Director and Professor M. Harris, Vice Chancellor, University of Essex.



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£38 million a year spent on maintaining British courses

The total annual cost of maintaining Britain's golf courses is currently running at £38 million. This is a massive increase of nearly 25 per cent compared with the £30 million spent in 1986. The total excludes labour costs at £66 million which also compared to 1986 shows an increase of nearly 25 per cent.

The expenditure by clubs now on maintaining the golf course indicates a big swing towards the improvement of playing conditions to the attitude just three years ago.

The total acreage of land utilised in 1989 as golf courses in Britain is estimated at 287,130 acres (114,852 hectares) and of this area nearly 66 per cent is maintained and mown regularly. The South East accounts for the most land used for golf with 28 per cent of the total followed predictably by Scotland with 23 per cent, and Northern England with 18.5 per cent.

The figures have just been released from the UK Golf Course survey 1989 which shows the average wage of a head greenkeeper has risen by £1,500 since 1986. The national average annual pay for a head greenkeeper is now £8,630 - a figure however that falls well below the recommended scales of pay just issued by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association of £13,409.

The survey was conducted by Turf Management and is published this month. It shows that each club budgets for an annual capital expenditure and while this varies from year to year the information provides an accurate figure to the amount being spent in buying new equipment or

replacing worn out machinery. In the South East golf clubs spend an average of £16,000 a year compared with clubs in Wales which record a meagre £2,400 a year. A national average however indicates that £16.4 million, a rise of 15 per cent, is spent on new machinery by clubs annually.

The most popular manufacturer supplying equipment to the golf course industry is Ransomes although a majority of clubs indicated they used equipment from more than three suppliers.

John Deere and Iseki were two companies that featured in this analysis while Toro holds an estimated national share of 18.4 per cent, other firms showing a significant market share were Sisis 14.8 per cent, Cushman 11.4 per cent and Jacobsen with 10.2 per cent. The Jacobsen share of the market shows a significant increase and is nearly double the figure reported in the 1986 survey.

Another company who has seemingly made impact on the British golf course market is Kubota. This company now holds an estimated 6 per cent share of the machinery and equipment sector compared with 1986 when it featured only in the 'others' category. While Kubota claim to be the largest supplier of compact tractors in Britain the dominant market position for golf is held by Massey Ferguson and Ford.

The total average expenditure on pesticides is calculated at £5.9 million which indicates that golf clubs have a major requirement for these materials. The amount consumed for the golf course market is a significant proportion of the total amount of pesticides used in amenity horticulture.

Golf clubs also spend a considerable amount on fertilizer with the survey showing a total of £3.1 million spent annually. This is a considerable increase of some 38 per cent. The region spending the most on fertilizers is the South East followed by the North. Clubs in East Anglia use the lowest amount of the whole country with only £835 spent annually.

Copies of the market survey are available at a price of £155. All enquiries should be sent to TURF MANAGEMENT, 201-205 Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT22 7PB

Golf Course Europe

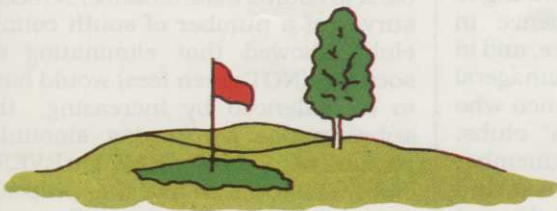
Interest has been considerable, especially from continental clubs after the announcement that Expoconsult are organising a conference and trade show in Weisbaden 4-6 October. The event is for golf course managers and greenkeepers together with others from the golf course construction and maintenance industry.

The conference programme will cover such diverse topics as Irrigation, Golf Course Maintenance principles, Public Courses, Financing of new course, Club House Architecture and infrastructure. All lectures will be delivered in the English language with a simultaneous translation into French and German. The exhibition is expected to attract thousands of trade visitors from all over Europe who will visit the stand of over seventy exhibitors. All available know-how products and technology will be on display.

For further details contact: Expoconsult, P.O.Box 200, 3600 AE Maarssen, The Netherlands. Tel: + + 31 3465 73777.

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